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DESCRIPTION.

OF THE

TOWNS and VILLAGES, &c.

ON,

AND ADJOINING,

K THE

GREAT NORTH ROAD,

FROM

LONDON to BAWTRY.

L O N D O N :

M.DCC.LXXXII.

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T O W N S and V I L L A G E S, &c.

M I D D L E S E X.

I S L I N G T O N,

ON the north side of London to which it is almost contiguous, appears to be of Saxon Origin. The church is one of the prebends of St. Paul's, to the Dean and Chapter of which a certain precinct here belongs, for the probate of wills, and granting administrations.

IN the south-west part of this village is that noble reservoir, improperly called New River Head; though they are only two basons, which receive that river from Hertfordshire, and from whence the water is thrown by an engine into the company's pipes, for the supply of London.

IN the reed moat on the north side of these basons, called Six Acres Field from the contents of it, which is the third field beyond the White Conduit, there appears to have been a fortress in former days, inclosed with a rampart and a ditch, which is supposed to have been a Roman camp, made use of by Suetonius Paulinus, after his retreat, which Tacitus mentions, from London, before he sallied thence, and routed the Britons under their Queen Boadicea; and that which is vulgarly but erroneously called Jack Straw's Castle, in a square place in a south-west angle in the field, is supposed to have been the seat of the Roman General's prætorium or tent.

IN this parish are two charity-schools, an hospital with its chapel, an almshouse, and a work-house for the poor.

HIGHGATE.

THIS village received its name from its situation on a hill, and from a gate which was erected by the Bishop of London upwards of four hundred years ago, where a toll was paid by carriages; as the road at that time ran through a part of the Bishop's park. This gate however has been taken down some years, and the road laid entirely open.

THE prospect from hence over London and its neighbourhood, Surry, Kent and the river Thames, is really astonishing; and the variety of objects which present themselves to the sight, fills the mind with admiration.

BUT the most remarkable particular in this village is, a custom used at several of the public-houses called swearing, which is practised on those country people who stop in the village for refreshment on their way to London. The form of this ridiculous ceremony is as follows:

A LARGE pair of horns being fixed to the end of a long pole, are held to the persons, and they are pressed in the most eager manner to be sworn. If they consent, the words of the oath are repeated aloud, viz. "That they will promise never to eat brown bread, while they can get white; that they will never drink small beer, while they can get strong; that they will never kiss the maid, while they can enjoy the mistress," with many other expressions to the same purpose, which are repeated, while the person, instead of a Bible, claps his hand upon one of the horns, after which he kisses them, and gives a shilling to be spent by the company. This ridiculous ceremony is altered according to the sex of the party; and to each article they use the words, "Except you like the other better."

ENDFIELD

IS an agreeable town, and contains many good buildings; it is said to have been antiently called Eufen, from its situation among fens and in marshy ground. It had antiently a royal seat, supposed to have been built in the reign of Henry the Seventh, and in the last century it was noted for being the residence of a great number of tanners, but at present little of that trade is carried on here.

NEAR the Town are several seats, among which the most conspicuous is that belonging to — Mellish, Esquire. It is situated in a beautiful park, and is a handsome and extensive building; at one end of it is a square tower, with a clock, above which is a dome terminated by a ball and a lance.

ENDFIELD has a weekly market on Saturday, and is distant from London ten miles.

HADLEY,

HADLEY,

NEAR Barnet, where was once an hermitage, was called Monkton Hadley, because it was antiently given by the Earl of Essex to his abbey at Walden. King Henry the Eighth gave this manor at the dissolution of monasteries to Thomas Lord Audley; Queen Mary to Sir Thomas Pope, and Queen Elizabeth to William Kympton, Alderman of London.

SOUTH MIMS,

TWO miles from North Mims, lies in the most northern angle of the county, and was the antient demesne of Jeffery de Mandevill, Earl of Essex, who gave it to the monastery of Walden; but after the dissolution of monasteries, Edward the Sixth gave it to Thomas Fisher, who exchanged it with Sir William Cavendish, from whom it passed to Sir Thomas Pope, and at last was settled in Mr. William Harrison.

HERE is an alms-house which James Hickson, Esq. who died in 1689, built and endowed for six poor people; he also gave by his will, to fifteen poor people of this parish, two shifts, one pair of hose, and a pair of shoes yearly, 20s. for the minister, for a sermon on New Year's Day; for the payment of which, with other legacies, he gave his manor of Walliats, and other estates in this parish to the Brewer's Company in London.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

BARNET

IS a large town, situated on the high north road from London. It is sometimes called High Barnet, from its being built on a hill; and in ancient records it is called Cheapen Barnet, from a great fair that was antiently held in it by a grant of Henry the Second. It is at present a very populous place, being the first stage on the great road from London to York and Chester.

THE town is long, and the church, which stands in the middle of it, is a very ancient structure, but only a chapel of ease to East Barnet, where the mother church is built.

ABOUT

ABOUT two miles north of Barnet is Derhams, the seat of the Earl of Albemarle; and near it is another fine seat, which was built by the unfortunate Admiral Byng.

HATFIELD,

COMMONLY called Bishops-Hatfield, is a place of great antiquity, as appears from an ecclesiastical synod being held at it, so far back as the year 681. Under the Saxon Kings it was a royal demefne, but Edgar gave it to the prior and convent of Ely. It is mentioned in Doomsday Book, and when Henry the First converted the monastery of Ely into a bishoprick, he granted a charter, wherein he gave the manor of Hatfield to the convent for ever; on which account it was afterwards called Bishops-Hatfield.

IN former times there was a royal palace here, in which both Edward the Sixth and Q. Elizabeth resided, before they succeeded to the throne. This palace is now the seat of the Earl of Salisbury; for in the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Bishop of Ely gave it to the Crown in exchange for other lands, and King James the First gave it to the Cecil family, in whose hands it has ever since continued. The building which is very spacious, is seen to great advantage from the road, and the park behind the house is very large, and well stocked with deer.

THE church is a venerable Gothic structure, built in the form of a cross, and at the end of the chancel is an ancient chapel. The living, which is a rectory, is in the gift of the Earl of Salisbury, and is reckoned one of the richest in England.

AT another village called NORTH MIMS, the Duke of Leeds has a fine seat, and the late Lord Chancellor Somers lies buried in the chancel of the church without any inscription.

STEVENAGE

IS a town of great antiquity, being a considerable place long before the reign of Edward the Confessor. It appears from Doomsday Book to have belonged to the Abbey of Westminster, and was in all probability one of those manors granted to that convent by King Edward the founder; for in the reign of Edward the First, a patent passed the Great Seal confirming this manor to the abbey in consequence of the original grant.

AT the general dissolution of religious houses, Henry the Eighth changed the monastery into a bishoprick.

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the TOWNS and VILLAGES, &c.

THE first prelate was Thomas Thirby, but he having embezzled the revenues to enrich his relations, the bishoprick was dissolved, and the rents of the manor annexed to the diocese of London; and so it continues to this day, on the payment of 100*l.* annually into the Exchequer.

A LITTLE to the south of Stevenage are the remains of an ancient camp, supposed by some to have been made by the Romans; but others have, with greater propriety, ascribed it to the Danes, as there is a place near it still known by the name of Danes-end.

AT this place is a remarkable built barn, the ridge of it broad enough to contain a coffin, which it now does, and is to be seen with the body of Henry Trigg, a shopkeeper of that town, who built it for that purpose; and, by will, ordered his body to be laid there.

BALDOCK

IS not a town of very great antiquity; for the first time we find it mentioned is in the reign of King Stephen, when Gilbert, Earl of Pembroke, gave the Knights Templars a piece of ground whercon they built this town, which they called Baudac, but it was afterwards corrupted to Baldock. They also built a house in the town for their own residence; but at the dissolution of that order it became the property of the Crown, and afterwards passed into lay hands.

THE town is at present a very considerable place, being large and well inhabited. The church, which stands about the middle of the town, is a venerable Gothic structure, having three chancels with a stately tower, in which is a ring of six good bells. The largest of these bells is very ancient, and was baptized in the times of popery, according to a notion which still prevails in popish countries, that the sound of baptized bells has the power of driving devils from the air. To this superstitious notion we are indebted for the custom of ringing or tolling bells when a person dies; for the priests taught the people, that as soon as the extreme unction was administered to the dying person, it was necessary to toll a baptized bell, to prevent the malicious spirits from giving any disturbance to the patient.

A LITTLE to the north of Baldock is CALDCOT, a very agreeable village, and near it another called HINKSWORTH, but neither of them contain any thing remarkable, except that in 1724 many Roman antiquities were dug up in a field near them, such as coins, urns, and warlike instruments, together with several human skeletons. Some of the urns were of glass, and others of a fine red earth, but all of them contained the ashes of some persons who had been interred according to the methods used by the Romans before they were converted to the Christian faith,

IN the same neighbourhood is another village called **ASHWELL**, which is not only pleasant, but well inhabited. The church is a very handsome structure, and has a lofty spire, which is seen at a great distance.

ON a hill called Harborough Field, near this village, was a Roman camp, of which some remains are still left. This ancient fortress consisted of no less than twelve acres of land, inclosed on every side with a ditch, and from what appears of its remains, had a very strong rampart. It is supposed by most of our antiquarians, to have been one of the exploratory towers erected to give notice of the approach of the enemy, before the Romans had totally subdued the Britons.

AT **SIFFIVERNS**, in Coddicote parish, and Cashio hundred, in the year 1627, there stood a walnut tree, which covered seventy poles of ground, but the weight of the boughs at last cleft the trunk to the bottom. Mr. Penn, the Lord of the Manor, had nineteen loads of planks out of it; a gun-stock-maker at London had as much as cost 10l. the carriage, and there were thirty loads more of root and branches.

Mr. Penn had been offered 50l. for the tree, and Mr. Docwra of the parish attested, that when he was fifteen years old, he could not reach round it at eight times, with the compass of both his arms.

ASHWELL

IS not only noted for its quarries of stone that has served to build most of the churches that way, and for its very cold spring, which is the head of the Rhee, but for a spot of ground half a mile to the south from thence, inclosed in a vallum, and thought to be one of the Roman castra exploratorum. 'Tis called **Arbury Banks**, and consists of about twelve acres; but though Mr. Camden thinks this a Roman village, and though Roman coins have been found here, yet it wants several particulars to make it a Roman camp. This village was once so considerable, that in Doomsday Book 'tis called a Borough, and had fourteen Burgeffes, a market and four fairs.

NEWENHAM,

ON the north side of Baldock, belonged anciently to the monastery of St. Albans; but King Henry the Eighth granted it to Ralph Powlet; but in that of Queen Elizabeth, it belongs to Richard Hale, grocer of London; and 1678 it was sold to Sir William Dyer of Tottenham; whose son, William, built a handsome house on it and sold it to Robert Cecil, whose lady sold it to Matthew Hutton.

NORTH-HALL,

NORTH-HALL,

THREE miles north of High Barnet, and on the north side of Enfield Chace, is corruptly so called from Northaw, or the North Grove, here being a wood that belongs to the monastery of St. Albans.

IN Queen Elizabeth's reign, a stately house was built here by Henry Dudley Earl of Warwick. It went after his death to the Lord Russel of Thornhaught, and after him to Richard Sidley, whose heir, William, sold it to William Leman, from whom it descended to Sir William Leman, Bart. his grandson, who allows the rent of the wells, which is 10l. per year, to the poor of the parish. And King James the First gave 40l. a year to the town, in lieu of the ground that he laid into his park at Theobald's out of the common, whereof twenty marks are applied to the use of the school-master, and the rest is distributed among the commoners or poor housekeepers there, at 5s. a piece. The great road from London to Yarmouth went formerly through this place, by way of Shoreditch and Southgate.

DATCHWORTH,

BETWEEN Knebworth and Watton-Woodhall, near the road from Ware to Stevenage, belonged formerly to Westminster Abbey; but Edward the Sixth granted it to the bishops of London, who have jurisdiction of the Leet; but the Court Baron of the Manor, now called Datchworthbury, was in the reign of Henry the Seventh in the possession of Richard Connet of Suffex, from whom it was conveyed to one Forster, in which name it continued, till Richard Forster of St. Albans, in the reign of James the First, sold it to John Gamon of Aston, Clerk, whose son sold it to William Wallis of Wormleyberry, as he did to Edward Harrison, of Balls, Esquire.

POPES

IN the parish of Hatfield-bishops, had that name from its ancient owners; from whom it passed to the Halworths, whose heirs sold it to William Tooke; and in 1664, it was sold to Stephen Ewre and Joshua Lomax, who next year conveyed it to Daniel Shauterden of Eltham in Kent; who sold it to Colonel Thomas Taylor, and Taylor to Sir David Mitchel; whose nephew John Mitchel, was lately, if he be not still the possessor.

RADWELL

NEAR Baldock, and three miles south of Caldecote, belonged heretofore to the Abbey of St. Albans, and the Priory of Pree; but Henry the Eighth granted it to Ralph Rowlet, father of Sir Ralph; whose sisters, his co-heirs, sold it to John Parker, the son of Sir Henry. It came in the reign of Elizabeth to William, afterwards Sir William Plomer, whose son sold it to Sir Robert Berkley, who lived to be one of the Justices of the King's Bench, and sold it about 1650 to Thomas Cole, a woollen draper, of London; who sold it in 1678 to Richard Bell of Bedford, as his son did, about twenty-six years ago to William Pym, Esq. This village stands on a stream that claims the name of Ivel; and had a mill that was once the property of the Knights Templars.

ICKENILD-WAY

IS that old Roman highway, denominated from the Icenians, which extended from Yarmouth in Norfolk, the eastern part of the kingdom of the Iceni, to Barley in Hertfordshire, giving name in the way to several villages, as Ickiworth, Icklingham, and Ickleton in that kingdom; from Barley to Royston it divides the shires of Cambridge and Hertford.

FROM Ickleford it runs by Tring, crosses Bucks and Oxfordshire, passes the Thames at Goring, and extends to the west part of England. This is the opinion of Sir Henry Chauncy, which seems much better founded than the assertion of Mr. Lambard, that it extended from Timworth in Northumberland, to St. David's in Wales; or Sir William Dugdale's, that it passed from Timworth, thro' Yorkshire to Gloucestershire, and so to Winchester and Southampton.

RIDGE

ON the ridge of a hill, near South Mims, did belong to the monastery of St. Albans, till Henry the Eighth granted it to Sir Hugh Paulet; from whom it passed by marriage to the ancestor of Sir Thomas Pope Blount, its present Lord, whose grandfather, Sir Henry, built the seat.

SHEEP-HALL

ON the south-east side of Stevenage, belonged anciently to the Abbey of St. Albans; but after the dissolution of monasteries, was conveyed to George Nodes, serjeant of the buck hounds to Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, and the Queens Mary and Elizabeth: in which family it has continued ever since.

TEWING

TEWING

ON the north-west side of Hertingfordbury on the same road, viz. the Maran or Minerum, formerly belonging to the Priory of St. Bartholomew, London; and upon the dissolution of monasteries, was granted to John Coxe, of Broxborne.

It was afterwards sold to one Butler, and by him conveyed to Richard Hale, grocer of London, whose son sold it to William, Earl of Salisbury; from whom it descended to the late Captain James Cecil. Dr. John Montford, Residentiary of St. Pauls, built a fair house near the church, which was sold to Sir George Boteler, Bart. in the reign of Charles the First, afterwards conveyed to Richard Winch, again sold to William Gore, and last of all to General Sabine, who rebuilt it magnificently. The Pygots family lived in this town above three hundred years. Here are some alms-houses, and two charity schools.

WALKERN

ON the river Beene to the east end of Stevenage, was purchased of Sir Edward Howard in the reign of Henry the Seventh, by Sir William Capel, from whom it descended to his posterity the Earls of Essex. Here is a park and lodge. Jane Wenman, who was tried in this county about eighty years ago for a witch, and convicted by the jury contrary to the express directions of Judge Powell, who therefore got a reprieve for her, lived here several years on an allowance from the parish.

It is reported likewise, that another woman being tried before Judge Powell, who among other things that constituted her a witch, had laid to her charge, that she could fly: Ay! said the judge, and is this true? Do you say you can fly? Yes I can, said she: So you may if you will then, replied the judge, I have no law against it. And at the trial of Jane Wenman, the Court being full of fine ladies, the old judge very gallantly told the jury, "they must not look out for witches among the old women, but among the young."

WELWYN

ON the river Mimram, in the great coach road to the north, six miles south of Stevenage, four north of Hatfield, and twenty-five from London, was so called by the Saxons from its plenty of springs.

It is said that in 1012 the general massacre of the Danes began at this place; and it is certain that in the north end of it, many bodies have been found buried,

some not above two feet under ground. The rectors of the church have long been Lords of this manor, at which are held Courts Leet and Baron, by virtue of a grant from Edward the Confessor, and the fines are at the will of the Lord. It has a small alms-house.

WELWYN deserves to be mentioned for its spa, the virtues of which of late years were received and made known by a reverend and learned doctor, whose writings have done honour to his country; and who, on trial, had found them to have the same qualities as those of Tunbridge. This was found out seventy years ago; but an eminent physician at that time, who was a great patron of them, dying, they were neglected till within these thirty-five years past.

In the year 1751, the ladies round the country, and particularly those whose seats were near Welwyn, and the gentlemen of course, agreed to establish a breakfast meeting at Welwyn; and a genteel spirited man (by trade a tanner, by his manners and circumstances a gentleman) accommodated the assembly with a large barn for their dancing and music room; to be ascended by a broad step-ladder. Very few need to be the conveniencies, with regard to place and elegance, that will draw together young persons of both sexes, for the sake of neighbourly or social conversation; the resort of genteel company to the place increased so much on the appointed days in the summer season, notwithstanding the fragrance of the vats and tan pits surrounding the assembly room, that the meeting was continued for some years. But very lately, the barn (made elegant by the company using it) being found to be too great a distance from the kettle, as it may be called, in which the mineral water bubbles up; to accommodate the drinkers of it, a neatish, plain, and simple assembly room, over against the spa, is appropriated for the breakfast meetings, dancings, &c.

WILLION

ON the south side of Baldock, belonged in great formerly to the Abbey of St. Albans, and now part of it belongs to John Dimisdale, whose uncle, Sir John, bought it of Richard Way, and the other part to Mrs. Adams; yet they are not distinct manors, but when a court is kept both join.

WOOD-HALL

ON the north side of Hatfield, belonged formerly to the Botelers, one of whom, Sir John, was by Charles the First created a Baron, by the title of Lord Boteler of Bransfield; but by his son William's death, without issue, the title became extinct.

THE manor came afterwards to Mrs. Shalcrofs, who by will left it to her sister, Mrs. Isabella Hutchinson, the present possessor. This Manor held formerly, if it does not still, of the Manor of Hatfield.

WHEATHAMSTEAD

ON the north side of St. Albans, on the river Lea, in a part of the county which produces excellent wheat, was given by Edward the Confessor to Westminster Abbey, and has since the dissolution of monasteries been in the Dean and Chapter who have jurisdiction here of Court-Leet and Baron. In the reign of Edward the Confessor it was valued at 30l. a year; at the conquest at 16l. and in that of Edward the First at 50l. a year. The church is of the cathedral fashion, and seems to be the oldest in the county.

HERE are the remains of the Popish image called the Rood, which is turned into the clerk's desk.

THIS is the place where, in 1311, the Barons assembled their forces against Edward the Second, and to which two nuncios came from the Pope, to offer their mediation, which was rejected.

TITTENHANGER,

THREE miles south-east of St. Albans, is a noble seat of Sir Thomas Pope Blount, Baronet, into whose family it came in the reign of Elizabeth.

KNEBWORTH,

BETWEEN Hertford and Hitchen; belonged in the reign of Edward the First, to Robert de Hoo, who obtained a market here on Fridays, and a fair at Midsummer; in the next reign to Thomas de Brotherton, fifth son to King Edward the First, by whose daughter it went in marriage, to John de Segrave, and after his decease, to her second Husband Sir Walter Manny. Upon her death it went to John Hoft, and soon afterwards to Sir Thomas Bouchier, who sold it, in the Reign of Henry the Seventh, to Robert Lytton of Derbyshire, in whose family it has continued to this day; for though in the reign of Charles the Second, Sir William Lytton gave it to Sir George Strode's eldest son, he left it to William Robinson Lytton. The manor house stands in a large park, well wooded, and stocked with the best deer in the county. Its situation is on a hill, or Knap, from whence it has its name.

DIGSWELL

NEAR Welling, and four miles from Hatfield in the road to Stevenage, stands on the south side of the river Mimeram. In the reign of Edward the First, Lawrence de St. Nicholas, the Lord of the Manor, procured it a weekly market, and a yearly fair for ten days.

In the reign of Richard the Second it came into the family of the Purcents; and in that of Henry the Eighth to that of the Horseys, one of whom sold it in the reign of James the First, to Sir George Purcent, a branch of the former family, who, in the same reign conveyed it to Richard Sedley Esquire, Sheriff of the county, one of whose heirs sold it to Humphry Shalcrofs Esquire, who was Sheriff of this county in the reign of Charles the Second, whose heir, Thomas Shalcrofs, Esquire, is, or was lately, the possessor.

WIMLEY, or WIMONDLEY MAGNA,

IN a rich and well cultivated soil, on the south-west side of Baldock, stands on the Pirral, which has a mill on it. The manor was sold by a decree in Chancery, from Hildebrand Lord Allington, to Elizabeth, widow of James Hambleton, who commanded a Regiment of Foot in the reign of Charles the Second, in the Navy against the Dutch; but the same Lord bought it again, and it fell afterwards to the daughters of his brother William, who were heirs at law, by that Lord's Will, bearing date before the purchase. These were the late Lady Howe, Diana, married to Sir George Warburton, whose daughter, the Lady Grosvenor, has her mothers third, and Katherine, married to Sir Nathaniel Napier.

Those ladies held this manor by grand-serjeantry, viz. the office of cup-bearer, to present the first cup the Sovereign drinks at the coronation; 'tis to be of silver gilt, and it is returned to them as the fee of the office, which has been appendant to this manor ever since the Conquest. There are behind the church, which is united with that of St. Hyppolite, the traces of a castle or some fortifications, erected in the time of the Normans. In the reign of Charles the Second, this place gave title of Baron to the aforesaid Lord Allington.

WIMLEY-PARVA

ON the south side of the former, and within two miles of Stevenage, had formerly a priory, which at the dissolution of monasteries, Henry the Eighth granted to James Needham, surveyor of his works, and his descendants have enjoyed it ever since.

LAMER

LAMER

ON the north side of the river Lea, in the parish of Wheathampstead, belonged in the reign of Henry the Third, to Pontius Lamere, from whose family it came to Sir William Rock, Alderman of London in 1545, whose daughter carried it by marriage to Sir John Boteler, whose son sold it to Sir William Gerrard, the ancestor of the present Sir Samuel Gerrard, Baronet. Its church, thought to be the oldest in the county, is built like a cathedral, and the rood seems to be left in it still, which serves for the clerk's reading desk.

HINKSWORTH

IN the most northern corner of the county, near Ashwell, belonged in the reign of Edward the Third, to Sir Henry Garnet of Benington, in Essex, and to Sir William le Baud of Little Hadham.

It was afterwards sold to Mr. Bowles of Standon, and afterwards to Jasper Smith of Bedfordshire, who, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, conveyed it to Mr. Norwood, of Pinner, by Harrow on the Hill, who sold it to Thomas Drayner of Hoxton in Middlesex; and at last it came to Sir Drayner Maffingberd. This Manor, which is in the duchy of Lancaster, came, upon the death of the Lady Maffingberd, to their son, who sold it to John Izzard, who left it to his son Robert.

HATFIELD-BISHOPS

IN the great coach road to the North, twenty miles from London. It was called Bishop's Hatfield, because it belonged to the Bishops of Ely. Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, held a Synod here, anno 681, against the Eutychian Heresy. Here was once a royal palace, from whence both Edward the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth were conducted to the throne; the former had his education here, the latter bought the Manor of the Bishop of Ely; and King James the First exchanged it with the Earl of Salisbury's ancestors for Theobald's, nearer to London. The rectory here, which is in that Earl's gift, is computed at 800l. a year. Here are two charity schools: the market is on Thursday, and the fairs on Good Friday, April 23d, July 25th, and October the 18th. The Earl of Salisbury has a noble seat here, built by the Great Burleigh, at that called Hatfield house, and a park (in which is a vineyard) watered by the river Lea. The Earl of Anglesea has a seat also in this parish with a park.

HATFIELD-

HATFIELD-WOODHALL,

A SUBORDINATE manor to Hatfield Bishops, so called from the plenty of timber growing on and about it. It belonged antiently to the Basingbourns, who held it from the reign of Henry the Third to that of Q. Elizabeth, when it was sold to Sir John Boteler, Lord Mayor of London; the ancestor of Sir Francis Boteler, who flourished in the reign of Charles the First, from whom it descended in 1690, to his daughter Juliana, the late widow Shalcrofs, who left it by her will to her sister, Mrs. Hutchinson.

EAST BARNET,

A PLEASANT village near Whetstone and Endfield Chace, was formerly frequented for its medicinal spring, found out near three hundred years ago, in a neighbouring common. The church is mean, but the rectory very beneficial; and there is a delightful seat here (Lord Trevor's) to which Q. Elizabeth justly gave the name of Mount Pleasant.

NORTON,

NEAR Baldock, belonged formerly to the abbey of St. Albans. In the reign of Edward the Sixth it was purchased of the Crown by John Boles; but in that of Charles the First, Lewis Boles sold it to Richard Cleaver; and it was afterwards sold to William Pym, Esquire.

ST. PAUL'S WALDEN

WAS formerly called Abbot's Walden, because it belonged to the abbots of St. Albans, who were its Lords and kept Courts here, called first Hall-motes, and then Views of Frankpledge; but Henry the Eighth granted it to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, London, from whence it has the present name.

If any copyholder dies possessed of any customary land held of this manor, his widow shall have dower; and by another custom all surrenders of copyhold estates must be taken by the Lords of the Manor or their stewards, unless a copyholder lye at the point of death, and then he must surrender the same by the hands of a copyholder, sworn in some court to take surrenders of tenants who are in such extremity; but if such tenant who has made such surrender, shall happen to recover and go abroad, the surrender so made is void.

BROCKET.

BROCKET-HALL,

BETWEEN Wheathamsted and Digswell, stands in a large park, watered by the river Lea, and was the antient seat of the Brockets, from whom by marriage of a daughter, it became the lordship of Sir James Read; and is now the seat of Matthew Lamb, Esquire.

B E D F O R D S H I R E.

BIGGLESWADE

IS a tolerable good town, pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Ivel, over which there is a good stone bridge, and lighters come up to it with coals. The town is in a very flourishing condition, and as it is a great thoroughfare to several parts of the north, there are several good inns for the accommodation of travellers. It is distant from London forty-six miles.

POTTON

IS very pleasantly situated near the borders of Cambridgeshire, and is reckoned the most considerable, next to Bedford, in the whole county. It is chiefly inhabited by carcase butchers, who send vast quantities of veal to the London markets. The town is exceeding populous, but it does not contain any thing remarkable. It is distant from London forty-nine miles.

ADJOINING to this town is the parish of SUTTON, which was given by the famous John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, to Roger Burgoyne, whose descendants still enjoy it. The mode of the deed by which this was given is so laconic and singular that we shall preserve a copy of it: it is as follows:

I, John of Gaunt,
Do give and do grant,
To Roger Burgoyne,
And the heirs of his loin,
All Sutton and Potton,
Until the world's rotten.

NEAR Sutton is a village called SANDAY, where the antient Britons fortified themselves against the Romans; but they being defeated, the Romans built
C a fort

a fort according to their own method; and this is supposed to be the salnea of the aptients. In the field near this place many urns of glass have been dug up, and some of a reddish colour, like coral. They were purchased by a gentleman of Bedford, and all of them contained ashes, from which circumstance we may infer, that the Romans had been a considerable time here, and to corroborate this supposition, many other pieces of antiquity have been dug up here, such as vases and lamps, besides a considerable number of coins.

SOME years ago, as a poor woman was weeding in a garden, she found a ring, which she carried to the Reverend Mr. Hooker, Rector of the parish; but he was not able to discover of what substance it was made; however it had a seal, and round it the following inscription:

In hoc signo vinces: that is, "In this sign I will overcome." On the seal was the figure of a man in a posture of worship before a crucifix, from which it is supposed that it belonged to one of the Christian Saxons, as image worship was not brought into the church till a considerable time after the Romans left the island.

THE fort at this place was defended by the Saxons against the Danes: but the latter prevailed, and totally destroyed it.

AT TEMPSFORD in the neighbourhood of potton, there was anciently a strong castle built by the Danes, with a camp, wherein they used to reside during the winter. Several parts of its ruins are still visible, but so imperfect that no idea can be formed of its original dimensions.

NEAR Shefford is a village called SOUTHILL, where there is a fine seat belonging to Lord Torrington.

EATON-SACON

NEAR the Ouse, a little to the south-west of St. Neots, had once a castle, the seat of the Beauchamps.

EVERDON

ADJOINING to Tempsford, on the east, is noted for the birth of the learned and eminent John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, and Lord High constable of England under Edward the Fourth, and Sylvester de Everdon, Bishop of Carlisle, in the reign of Henry the Third.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

HUNTINGDON,

THE principal town in this county, is of great antiquity; and mentioned in Doomsday-Book as containing two hundred and twenty-seven burghesses. It is built on a small rising ground, on the north side of the river Ouse, over which it has a handsome stone bridge; and it had an Abby founded by the Empress Matilda, Daughter of Henry the First.

THE government is vested in a Mayor, Twelve Aldermen and a Common Council; the weekly market is on Saturdays, and the town is distant from London Fifty-seven Miles.

OPPOSITE to Huntingdon, on the other side of the Ouse is GODMANCHESTER, a place of great antiquity, and esteemed one of the largest villages in England. It has been long noted for its husbandry, the people sparing neither expence nor labour to promote every different branch of agriculture. The lands in and near it are held by a very singular tenure, namely, that when any of our Kings pass that way, the people are obliged to attend him with their ploughs and other instruments of husbandry. It does not appear in what King's reign this custom took place, nor do we find it was ever put in practice more than once, and that was in the reign of James the First.

WHEN that Monarch came from Scotland, in passing by the place, the people met him with seventy ploughs, each drawn by a team of horses.

THE King being surprised at the sight of so many people with such implements, asked the reason of it: He was answered they were his own tenants, and by that tenure they held their land; upon which His Majesty was so well pleased, that he incorporated them by the name of two Bailiffs, twelve Assistants, and the Commonalty of the Borough of Godmanchester. But notwithstanding this privilege the place never sent any members to Parliament.

NEAR Godmanchester, in the road from Huntingdon to London, is a tree, well known to travellers by the name of the BEGGARS-BUSH, which it is said to have received from the following circumstance. When King James passed this place, attended by the Great Chancellor Bacon, the former rebuked the latter, for having been guilty of some particular extravagance, and told him that if he continued such conduct, he would soon come to the Beggars-Bush. This being made known it produced a proverb, which has been ever

since preserved throughout the county, namely, that when a person is observed to be squandering away his fortune, they say, "He is in the way to Beggars Bush."

ABOUT a mile to the west of Huntingdon, is a village called **HINCHEBROOK**, remarkable for its fine castle, the seat of the Earl of Sandwich.

It was built on the ruins of an ancient priory founded by William the Conqueror, some parts of which still remain, and are joined to the present building. It was here that Cornet Joyce lodged the unfortunate Charles the First, when he brought him prisoner from the north.

St. NEOTS,

USUALLY called St. NEEDS, is an agreeable Town pleasantly situated on the north-east side of the river Ouse. It received its name from one Neotus a learned man, who read Divinity at Oxford in the ninth Century, where he died. After his bones had laid there many years, David the First, King of Scotland obtained leave of his brother-in-law Henry the First to have them removed to this place; and the town whose former name is unknown, has been called St. Neots ever since.

THE town is both populous and well built; and has a noble Gothic church, with one of the finest steeples in the county.

IN the neighbourhood of St. Neots is a village called **HAILWESTON**, where there is a mineral spring, the water of which is esteemed efficacious in curing various disorders, particularly those incident to the eyes.

BETWEEN St. Neots and Huntingdon is a Village called **BUGDEN** or **BUCKDEN**, justly celebrated for containing a superb palace, the country seat of the Bishop of Lincoln, who is Lord of the Manor. The house though built at different times, is extremely regular, and together with its gardens is surrounded by a deep moat.

GREAT sums of money have been expended upon this building, by different Prelates, particularly Doctor Sanderfon, who was promoted to the See of Lincoln, at the Restoration of Charles the Second. The chapel is exceeding elegant, and the outside of it is terminated by a lofty and beautiful spire: But the greatest curiosity is within, where, on the wall, is a representation of an Organ, so admirably executed, that at first sight it appears to be a real one.

YAXLEY

IS a small well built town, but its situation is deemed very unhealthy, on account of its being so near the Fens. It has a handsome Gothic church, with a lofty spire, which is seen at a considerable distance; but no other building that merits particular notice.

THE weekly market is on Tuesdays, and the town is distant from London sixty-two miles.

IN the neighbourhood of Yaxley is a small Village called STILTON, remarkable for producing Cheese, which is so greatly esteemed as to be usually styled the Parmesan of England.

FROM Stilton to Grantham, at every mile are blocks, made of the famous Kelton Stone, with three steps, which were placed there by Mr. Boulter, for the easy mounting of his horse, he being a very corpulent Man, and travelled that road every week for many years; each Stone engraved E. B. 1708.

OVERTON-LONGVILLE,

ALITTLE below the river Nen, near Peterborough, was forfeited to King John by felony; and afterwards belonged to the Lovetosts. The Earl of Lincoln has a seat here. Lord Morpeth, Lord of the manor.

GREAT and LITTLE STUKELEY,

ON the Ermin Street, north-west of Hungtindon. The former belonged to Mr. Tockington; the latter to Mr. Bigg. The Stukeleys, one of the antientest families in those parts, had their seat at the former, which has the advantage of the north road. It was antiently called Stivecle, or Stiffelay, from the nature of the soil.

GREAT PAXTON,

ON the east side of the Ouse, to the north east of St. Neots. King Edward the Third granted two-thirds of it to Robert Manners, ancestor of the Duke of Rutland, for his service against the Scots.

Dr. Anderson has a seat here.

LITTLE PAXTON,

IS a Member of the former, but is on the west side of the Ouse, nearer Haleweston.

SAWTREE,

SAWTREE,

ST. ANDREW, Judith, and All Saints, on the east side of the Giddings. The two first are Mr. Cotton's manors; the last the Duke of Devonshire's.

WANDSFORD, or WANDSFORD in
ENGLAND,

IT obtained the latter addition to its name from the following story, which is firmly believed by the country people, viz. That a great flood coming hastily down the river Nyne, in hay-making time, a country fellow, having taken up his lodging on a cock of hay in a meadow, was driven, on the hay, down the stream, in the night while he was fast asleep, towards Wisbech in the Fens; when being awakened, he was seen and taken up by some fishermen, almost in the open sea, and being asked where he lived? he answered, at WANDSFORD in ENGLAND.

At the great Inn by the south end of the Bridge is the sign of a man floating on a cock of hay, and over him written "Wandsford in England."

ELTON

WITH its Hall, mill, and park, are on the North East side of the Nen, near Totheringhay Castle. 'Twas the Seat of the ancient family of the Sapcotes, who had a beautiful private chapel here, built by the Lady Elizabeth Denham, Baron Fitzwarren.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

UPTON

ON the west side of Northampton, was by King Edward the Second granted to his favourite Gaveston, who was afterwards executed; and in the Reign of Edward the Third, it was the demesne of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, who left it to his posterity.

THIS was the birth place of that noted Republican Author James Harrington; and in this Parish a most stately Oak was felled not many years ago, which yielded twelve good waggon loads of timber, besides the sap and roots, and a load and a half of bark. Sir Thomas Samwell, Baronet, has a seat here.

COLLIWESTON

COLLIWESTON,

NEAR the river Welland, about six miles from Stamford, in the road to Oundle, belonged to the Crown for many ages; and Henry the Seventh's mother built a fine house here.

GREAT store of slates for covering houses are dug in the neighbourhood.

BURLEIGH,

ONE mile from Stamford, to the south-east, is the place that first gave title of Baron to Secretary Cecil, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as it has done ever since to his descendants the Earls of Exeter. He made it his chief seat, and added a park to it, through which by the wall, passed the old Roman foot-way, and so on above Berneck to Wolcot. It belonged to St. Martin's parish, Stamford. The house which has been very much improved by his successors, particularly by the late Earl's father, is truly great and noble, so that for stately rooms, paintings, carvings, terraces, fountains, walks, &c. it may vie with the best Seat in England. It looks more like a town than a house, in which the towers and pinnacles appear like those of churches, and a large spire covered with lead, rises like that of a cathedral over the clock in the centre.

THERE is an uninterrupted prospect from it for near thirty miles over Stamford into the fens of Lincolnshire. In the great hall is the aforesaid Earl's picture on horse-back, done by the Duke of Tuscany's chief painter, at his Highness's charge, the Earl being then at his Court. And here is so fine a piece of Seneca's bleeding to death in his bath, that it is said the late French King offered 6000 Pistoles for it. There are also the finest paintings by the celebrated Verrio, whom the Earl employed twelve years in his family, allowing him a coach and equipage, with a considerable pension.

WHITTLESEY-MERE

IS a Lake to the south-east of Peterborough formed by a branch of the Nen. It is five or six miles in length, about half as broad, and full of excellent fish, especially tench and pike, with perch and eels; of which they send great numbers alive to London in butts full of water, upon waggons.

THE water of this lake is for the most part exceeding clear; but sometimes even in calm weather, like the other neighbouring Meers, rises tempestuously to the great danger of the fishermen.

THE air is very foggy and unhealthy, by reason of the fens; so that few, besides the natives, can live in it, who not only gain great profit by their fish, but by their rich pasture and abundance of turf for firing with which they supply not only their own but the neighbouring county.

CASTOR,

THREE miles from Peterborough, and one from the river Nyne, is supposed, from the chequered pavements found here, together with Roman copper coins, urns, &c. to have been part of the ancient city called by the Romans Durobrivæ, and by the Saxons Dormancheſter.

THE Roman highway called Erming-street, goes from hence to Lincolnshire. Its church which appears to have been consecrated in 1174, stands on a hill where the castle stood, which was the seat of the Roman governor. The manor belongs to the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough; and near it is the seat of the Lord Fitzwilliams.

BARNACK

ON the river Welland, between Maxey Castle and Burleigh, above the place where the Roman way, from its breadth, appears in a high causey, especially by the little wood of Barnack, where it has a Beacon set upon the ridge of it, and so runs along by Burleigh park wall.

ABOUT a mile from Burleigh is a seat called WOOTHORP, and stands on the Great Roman way. This is the house of which the old Earl is reported to have said, he built it to remove to, and to be out of the dust while Burleigh House was sweeping.

MILTON

IN the Parish of Castor, near Peterborough, was the native place of Sir William Fitzwilliams, who was five times Lord Deputy of Ireland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and is now the seat of the Earl Fitzwilliams.

CONNINGTON

NEAR Stilton at the head of the river which forms Ug-Meer, Brick-Meer, and Whittlesey-Meer, has the plain reliicks of an old castle; and is the Seat of Sir John Cotton, Baronet, whose ancestor Sir Robert, founder of the Cottonian Library, ordered a pool to be dug just by this town, wherein was found

found the skeleton of a fish, near 20 feet long, lying in perfect silt, above 6 feet below the surface of the ground, and as much below the level of the fens.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

THISSLETON,

ON the north side of the county in the York road from Stamford, was in the Busseys family from Edward the First to Henry the Eighth; when it went to Anthony Meers, who for want of issue-male, was the heir at law, and sold it in the reign of Elizabeth, to Sir Edmund Brudenel, ancestor of the Earls of Cardigan to whom it descended. In the reign of James the First, John Lord Harrington held fifty acres of land here of the King in Capite, by the one hundredth part of a knight's fee. Here is a charity school.

MARKET-OVERTON,

THREE miles from Okeham, had antiently a market, and was called Overton from its situation on a hilly ground.

HERE is supposed to have been a station of the Romans, plenty of their coins having been found here. Its market, which was on Tuesdays, was procured in the reign of Edward the Second, by the Lord Baddlesmere, together with its fairs on May 6th and October 16th. In the reign of Edward the Third, this manor belonged to John Vere, Earl of Oxford, who married an heiress of Lord Baddlesmere. Upon his flight and attainder for adhering to the House of Lancaster, it was given by King Edward and the parliament to the Duke of Gloucester, who was King Richard the Third, but afterwards he recovered it.

IN the reign of Henry the Eighth it belonged to Henry Courtney, Marquis of Exeter, and upon his execution in the same reign it came to the Crown; and in the third year of Edward the Sixth, the King's receiver for those parts accounted in the Court of Augmentations, for the rents and profits of this manor, the sum of 19l. 14s. 6d.

TICKENCOTE,

TWO miles and a half from Stamford, is in a pleasant sporting country, having several packs of hounds kept near it, and a handsome mansion-house, finely watered, the seat of Thomas Orby Hunter. It belonged formerly

to the Dannes, the Bevercotes, the Fixtons, the Campynels, and a younger branch of the Wingfields of Upton in Northamptonshire.

TINWELL

ON the Welland, south-west of Stamford, anciently belonged to the abbey of Peterborough; but at the dissolution of monasteries was given by Edward the Sixth to Sir William Cecil, afterwards Lord Burleigh; to hold of the King in Capite, and is descended lineally to the present Earl of Exeter.

RYAL, or RYEHALL,

ON the north-west side of Stamford, anciently belonged to the abbey of Peterborough; then to the Spencers, favourites of Edward the Second; then to the Hollands, Earls of Kent; and since to the Earls of Exeter. The Bodenham's have had a good estate in this town for several descents.

STRETTON

BETWEEN the five-mile-cross and Lincolnshire, anciently belonged to Market Overton, and afterwards in the reign of Henry the Sixth, it belonged as a manor of the Crown, to Humphry Duke of Gloucester, his uncle; then it came to the Harrington's, who held it in soccage of the manor of East-Greenwich, and sold it to the ancestors of the Earl of Gainborough.

PICKWORTH,

TO the east of that called Five-mile-cross in the York road from Stamford, was formerly a town with a parish church, of which nothing remains but the steeple, now called Mockbeggar. Sir John Geney, who was Lord of this Manor in the reign of Henry the Sixth, ordered it to be sold after his death; and it was purchased by Sir Henry Inglose for 1000 marks of silver.

It was afterwards Sir John Hussey's manor, upon whose attainder it reverted to the Crown. In the reign of James the First it was John Lord Harrington's, and since, by the purchase of it from his sister, the Countess of Bedford, is become the Earl of Exeter's. Some lands here belonged formerly to the monastery of Oweston in Leicestershire.

GREETHAM

NEAR Cottesmore, was purchased of George Villars, the last of the name, Duke of Bucks, by the late Daniel Earl of Nottingham.

EXTON,

THREE miles from Okham, came by marriage, to David King of Scots; who thereby also became, in right of his Wife (daughter and heiress of Judith, the niece of William the Conqueror) Earl of Huntingdon. It afterwards went by the female issue, to the noble family of the Bruces; from them to the Greens; from them to the Calpepers; and from them to the Harringtons, who held it near six hundred years, in a direct line, till it was sold, in the fifteenth century to Sir Baptist Hicks, in trust, to pay the debts of the two last Lords Harrington.

IT was afterwards Viscount Camdens; and it is now the manor and seat of the Earl of Gainsborough, whose ancestor married the heiress of Sir Baptist Hicks. Baptist Noel, Viscount Camden lies in its church, where a Monument was erected for him in 1684, by his third son John Noel, at the expence of 1000*l*. Tis twenty-two feet high and fourteen broad, and was executed by that famous carver Mr. Grinlin Gibbons.

EMPINGHAM,

BETWEEN Burleigh on the Hill and Tickencote, belonged heretofore to the Normanvilles, and Basings, and the Passcleys; one of whom in the reign of Edward the First, had a grant for a market here on Thursdays, and a fair on May 17th, both long since disused. It was lately the Manor of Sir Thomas Mackworth, who enjoyed it by inheritance from Ralph de Normanville, who lived in the Reign of Henry the Third, so that this estate was continued in the same blood, though not in the same name, near four hundred and fifty years. Here is a Charity School, and on the Heath there used to be Horse Races.

KETTON

ON a rivulet that runs into the Welland, near Tinwell, belonged in the reign of Edward the Second to Ralph de Greneham. It was in the Crown in the Reign of Henry the Eighth, who gave it to Mr. James Gemter and his heirs.

HERE is a certain rent collected yearly from the inhabitants by the Sheriff, of 2s. a year "*pro Ocreis Reginae*" *for the Queen's boots*, though we don't read of any that wore them.

THE church here is the neatest in all these parts, having the form of a little cathedral.

KELTHORP,

A HAMLET of the Parish of Kelton, anciently belonged to a Monastery at Tateshall. King Henry the Eighth granted it to the Duke of Suffolk; but in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was in the hands of Francis Coleby, who by her licence, alienated it to John Houghton.

CASTERTON-BRIG,

SO called from its Bridge over the Guash or Wash here, two miles beyond Stamford, in the road to York, is supposed to have been one of the Roman stations, from their coins often dug up here. In the reign of Edward the Second the manor belonged to Lord Delawar, and in that of Henry the Sixth to Lord Scrope of Bolton. In that of Henry the Eighth it was forfeited to the Crown. Tis also called Great Casterton, to distinguish it from the next parish, viz.

CASTERTON-PARVA,

WHICH in the reign of Edward the Second, belonged to the Abby of Newstead, upon whose dissolution, it came to the Crown, and was held of it in the reign of Edward the Sixth by Francis Brown, Esquire.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

GRANTHAM

IS a considerable town pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Witham. It contains many handsome buildings, and being on the High Road from London to York, has several good Inns for the accommodation of travellers.

THE church is a stately structure, with a lofty spire which is seen at a considerable distance. It is so constructed, that in whatever point of view it is seen,
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It appears to the naked eye to deviate from the perpendicular, which is owing to the wood work within not being properly fixed when it was first erected. Within the church are many antient monuments, and the organ is curiously ornamented with two fronts.

WHETHER this town was more populous in former times than at present is not certainly known; but near the church is a building called the Charnel-House, where are piled up great quantities of human skulls, so bleached by the air, that they appear nearly as white as ivory. They are placed in the most regular order, which shews at least some respect to the remains of the dead, while the mind of the beholder is filled with humiliating thoughts of what he must one day be, and taught to set a proper value upon all temporal enjoyments.

NEAR the Church is an excellent free school, founded by Dr. Fox, Bishop of Winchester; and there are two charity schools for children of both sexes. There are likewise several meetings for Protestant Dissenters.

THE government of this town is vested in an Alderman, Recorder, Coroner, twelve Common Council Men, twelve Assistants and twelve Constables; the Alderman and Common Council have power to act as Justices of the Peace in their own liberties, and the representatives to serve in Parliament are chosen by the Freemen in general.

GRANTHAM has a good weekly market on Saturday, and is distant from London one hundred and ten miles.

IN the neighbourhood of Grantham is a small Village called HAUGH, where the Empress Matilda, mother of Henry the Second, founded a convent for Monks of the order of St. Augustina; but it being subject to an abby in Normandy, it was dissolved with other alien priories in the reign of Henry the Sixth.

THERE is another Village called HERLEXTON, near Grantham, where in the Reign of Henry the Eighth, a brazen vessel was dug up, containing several pieces of antiquity; particularly a golden helmet studded with diamonds, and a string of beads with some parchments, but so disfigured they could not be read.

It is not however to be doubted but they were Christian antiquities, but how long they had lain there could not be known, nor does it appear what is now become of them, for the persons who discovered them presented them to Catharine of Arragon, and when she died it is reasonable to suppose that they were kept by some of her servants.

MANY Roman antiquities have been dug up at a village called PAUNTON, near this place, such as coins, pavements, and the remains of baths, from which it has been conjectured, that there was formerly a bridge at this place over the river Witham.

THERE was a Priory of Benedictine Monks, founded by Robert de Belvideir, in the Reign of William the Conqueror near this place, but in latter times it was annexed, as a cell, to the Mitred Abby of St. Albans, to which it was subject till the dissolution of religious houses, when its annual revenues amounted to 130l.

STAMFORD

IT is a very antient town, pleasantly situated on the river Welland, over which it has a handsome stone bridge. Some antient writers tell us there was an university in this town long before the Romans invaded the Island; but this is manifestly an idle tale, for the Britons were then as destitute of knowledge as the Hottentots, or the Laplanders are in the present age. What gave rise to this fable was, that in the Reign of Edward the Third, some of the Students, as well as Fellows, having been expelled the University of Oxford, came and set up schools here, in some houses where others had formerly taught, one of which is still remaining. It is called Brazen-Nose, from its having a Brazen Head upon the gate, with a ring through the nose like that at Oxford.

KING Stephen found this town of great importance during his wars with the Empress Matilda; and to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy, he built a strong Castle, some remains of which are still to be seen.

AT present Stamford is both a handsome and a flourishing town. It consists of several good streets, in which are many elegant buildings, and has seven parish churches, with several meeting houses for Protestant Dissenters. In one of the churches is a Monument to the memory of the great Lord Burleigh, and in another is a handsome one to the memories of the Earl of Exeter and his Countess.

IN this town are several good inns for the accommodation of travellers. Two of these are esteemed as large as any in England, particularly that known by the name of the Bull. It is built of free-stone in the form of a square, and has rather the appearance of a palace, than a place of publick entertainment.

THE government of this town is vested in a Mayor, Recorder, twelve Aldermen, and twenty-four Common Council, with a town-clerk and other proper officers. It enjoys many valuable privileges, such as being exempt both from the jurisdiction of the Lord-Lieutenant and the Sheriff, nor are they obliged to serve on
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series any where out of the town, the mayor being the King's Lord Lieutenant of the town and its liberties.

On the south bank of the river was formerly a very strong castle, called Stamford Baron; and Stowe says, that in the year 930 there was a mint; and in King Stephen's time there was a castle in the midst of the town, of which the foundation-plot is still visible. Here it was that the Barons met to levy war against King John. In his reign, the Lord of the Town, William Earl of Warren, observing two bulls in the castle meadow, fighting for a cow, and that all the butchers dogs in the town, alarmed by their bellowing, ran out, and singling one of them, pursued it through the town; he was so pleased at the sight, that he gave all the meadow for a common to the butchers of the town, on condition that they should find a mad bull six weeks before Christmas, yearly, for the continuance of that sport; from whence arose the proverb of, "As mad as the Baiting-bull of Stamford."

THE notable custom of BOROUGH ENGLISH subsists here, by which the younger sons inherit the lands and tenements of their fathers dying intestate.

BELTON

WITHIN a mile of Grantham, with a large park and fine gardens, is the seat of Lord Tyrconnel, and one of the most regular and beautiful in the county. Here is a noble observatory, erected on an eminence in the form of of a triumphal arch, named Babel Mount, which affords a fine view of the country.

BELVOIR,

OR as it is commonly called BEVER-CASTLE, four miles from Grantham and eighty-five from London, was, according to Camden and others, built by Robert de Tedenci, or Tetencis, a noble Norman, to whom William the Conqueror gave this, and thirty other manors in this county, and who erected a priory near it, which was a cell to St. Albans in Hertfordshire. It afterwards came to the family of Lord Roos or Ros, from whom, by marriage of a female heir, it passed to Sir Robert Manners, whose son, the Earl of Rutland, rebuilt the castle, which had been demolished in the reign of Henry the Second, and it has continued the seat of that family, who are now Dukes of Rutland, ever since; and a very magnificent one it is, this noble family having, for several generations, spared no cost to render it delightful, so as to answer its name, for it affords a charming prospect into the counties of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Rutland and Northamptonshire, as well as over the fruitful valley under it, which, for the most part belongs to the duke, and spreads from this county into those of Leicester

Leicester and Rutland. In the fine gallery of this noble seat are fine family and other pictures, both ancient and modern; particularly the original one of King Charles the First as he sat at his trial.

BOOTHBY-PAGNEL,

SOUTH-EAST of Grantham, and on the west side of the Wytham, not far from the source of it, takes its name from one Boothby, who formerly had a seat here; from whose family it passed by marriage to that of Paganel, or Paynel.

BITHAM-CASTLE

NEAR Witham, on the borders of Rutlandshire, which is now in ruins, was, in the reign of William the First, given to Odo, Earl of Albemarle and Holderness, who having married that king's sister, obtained it to support their young son Stephen, with wheaten-bread, at a time, when the greatest people in these parts eat none but oat-loaves.

KING Edward the Third demolished this castle, after which this place became the seat, and as it were the head of the barony of the Colviles, who flourished here a long time, till John de Gernon, and Ralph de Bassett of Sapcote, became heirs of this rich inheritance, in right of their mothers, who were the sisters of Edmund de Colvile.

WOOLSTHORP,

NEAR Collierworth, is famous for the birth of Sir Isaac Newton.

SEDGEBROOK

ON the north side of Grantham, and on the same river opposite to Belton, belonged not very long ago to the Markhams, who have a vault in its church, built by the famous judge Markham, and over it a chamber, where he lodged.

HERE is a charity school.

STOKE,

ON the Trent, by Newark, belonged antiently to the Stokes, who gave several pieces of land here to St. Peter's church at Thurgerton.

BEFORE

BEFORE the dissolution of monasteries here was an hospital dedicated to St. Leonard, which with the site thereof, was given by Queen Elizabeth to John Marlb, and Francis Greenham.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

NEWARK-UPON-TRENT

IS so called from its situation on that river, where it forms an island by a division of the stream. It is a place of considerable antiquity, for the Epithet New was given it in the Reign of King Stephen, when Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, built a strong castle here on the spot where another had formerly stood.

It was first incorporated by Edward the Sixth, but Charles the Second in consideration of their loyalty to his father, renewed their charter, and enlarged their privileges. It is at present under the government of a Mayor, Recorder, and twelve Aldermen, with a Common Council of the principal inhabitants; and it sends two members to Parliament, who are chosen by all the inhabitants paying scot and lot.

TUXFORD,

COMMONLY called Tuxford in-the-Clay, from its being situated in the division named the South-Clay; is a small, but neat town; and being situated on the High Post Road from London to York, has several good Inns for the accommodation of travellers. Great part of the town was burnt down on the 8th September, 1702; after which it was rebuilt in a more handsome manner.

THE only building in this town that merits particular notice is, a noble free-school, founded by Charles Read, Esq. who endowed it with 50l. per annum for a master, and 40l. for teaching the children of the town, and the sons of four decayed clergymen. The Trustees for this school are the Mayor and Aldermen of Newark, with six of the neighbouring gentlemen.

TUXFORD has a weekly market on Monday, and is distant from London one hundred and thirty seven miles.

REDFORD or RETFORD,

IS an agreeable town pleasantly situated on the river Idle, about three miles to the west of the Great Road from London to York. It received its name from a Ford, which was antiently over the river Idle; and the epithet Red was added from a reddish clay found in great plenty in its neighbourhood. It is sometimes called East Retford from its situation on the East Bank of the river, and to distinguish it from a village upon the opposite bank, called West Retford.

At present Redford is a neat and populous town, and the buildings in general regular and handsome.

The church is a noble Gothic structure, and has a beautiful altar piece, over which is an admirable painting of Christ's last supper with his disciples.

WEST-RETFORD

IS joined to this town by a bridge over the river Idle. However they are two distinct parishes, and West-Retford is only remarkable for having a fine hospital, or alms-house, founded by Sir John Dorrel, Doctor of Physic, in the year 1666, for a master and ten brethren. The master's salary is 15l. a year, and the ten brethren have each 10l. besides 20s. for a load of coals every year; and six yards of cloth every other year. The same benevolent gentleman left a salary of 10l. a year towards maintaining a scholar in Exeter College, Oxford.

BLITH or BLYTH,

IS pleasantly situated at the northern extremity of this county, on the borders of Yorkshire. It is a place of great antiquity, and had formerly a castle; but it has long since been totally demolished.

At present the only buildings in this town that merit particular notice are, the church, which is a large Gothic structure, with a lofty tower, and an hospital, called Blyth's Spital, built by one of the family of Cressy.

Here is also an elegant seat belonging to William Melkiss, Esq.

MUSCOMB,

NORTH and South, near Newark. Part of the former belonged once to a family of the same name, and another part to the Abby of Peterborough, and

and other religious houses; and some lands here were given to Newsted-Abby which Edward the Sixth gave to Leon Brown and Anthony Trapps. The manor of South Muscomb belonged to St. Mary of Southwell, of which the Archbishops of York had the Fee, and under them the Muscomb family were Lords and gave their lands to monasteries.

WINTHROP,

ON the Trent, north of Newark was given by King John to the Bishop of Lincoln, to hold with his manor of Newark, as it has gone ever since.

NORWELL,

ON the south-west side of Willoughby, and its Hamlet, called Norwell-Woodhouse, are both manors of the collegiate church of St. Mary at Southwell, of which Norwell-Overhall is a Prebend. The capital messuage, with a good demesne in Norwell-Woodhouse belonged some time ago to Sir Thomas Williamson, Baronet.

WESTON,

BETWEEN Tuxford and Carleton, belonged for the most part to the late Sir Bryan Broughton, as did its church formerly to the Monastery of Blyth.

MARNHAMS

TWO Hamlets by the Trent, near Normanton; belonged formerly to the Chaworths, one of whom obtained a market on Thursday, and a fair on July 29th, in the reign of Henry the Third, at that which from him was called Marnham Chaworth. The manor went afterwards by marriage to Sir Anthony Cope. Here were several parcels of abby land.

NORMANTON

BY Southwell, belonged in the Reign of Henry the Fourth to the family of the Hunts; and was sold afterwards to Mr. James Palmer, and became the estate of Sir Matthew Palmer. The late Mr. Cartwright had a seat here, as have a branch of the Lecks of Halam.

SUTTON

ON the Trent, near Gresthorp, belonged antiently to a branch of the Suttons, who gave some part of it to religious foundations, and claimed a market on Mondays, and a fair July 24th and 25th, but is now, or was lately, in the heirs of Gilbert Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury.

GIRTON,

A VILLAGE belonging to Newark, of which the Bishop of Lincoln is Lord, and where the knights templars had some interest in the reign of Edward the First.

CARLETON-UPON-TRENT,

IN the midway betwixt Newark and Tuxford, is a township belonging to Norwell, Besthorp, Laxton and other parishes. It was formerly the manor of the Crumbwells, one of whom in the reign of Edward the Third obtained a market and fair here, long since disused.

BESTHORP,

A HAMLET to Caunton, on the borders of Lincolnshire, belonged formerly to the family of the same name, and lately to Mr. Thomas Bristow, who improved it very much. It has a charity school.

COLLIGHAM

TWO or three miles from Newark-upon-Trent, belonged antiently to the Abby of Peterborough; and on its being turned into a bishoprick, King Henry the Eighth assigned the revenues of both parishes, which were near 86l. a year towards the support of the Dean and Chapter. The late Earl of Stamford was the grand lessee. It had not long ago, if not now, a charity school,

EATON or IDLETON

ON the river Idle, from whence it is also called Idleton, is on the South side of East Retford. It belonged to the family of Wolrington in the reign of Henry the Second, and to John Leverwick, John Cutt, and Thomas Wirtley, in that of Henry the Sixth. Soon after it came to Sir John Savage, who enfeoffed Sir Thomas Chaworth with two-thirds of it, and Sir William Babbington, and
Thomas

Thomas Nevil, with the other third to the use of Hugh Hercy, whose descendants disposed of their part to Mr. George Markham; from whose family it came to Nicholas Stringer, and was, not very long ago, in the possession of Francis Stringer.

ORDSALL

ON the river Idle, east of Redford, anciently belonged to the Hercys, then to the Macworths, and to one Bevercote, a lawyer, whose daughter carried it in marriage to Thomas Cornwallis, who sold it to the Countess of Devonshire; by whom it was settled on her second son Sir Edward Wortley.

PART of this township belonged to and went with the manor of Eaton. Here is a paper mill.

SCROOBY

IN the parish of Sutton, just by Bawtree, and in the road from London to York.

IN the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Archbishops of York had a fine palace here, and a jurisdiction over many towns on the north side. And it has still a good park, but the house is almost fallen to the ground.

HARWORTH

ON the borders of Yorkshire, near Tickhill Castle, was, with its three hamlets, for many years the estate of the Moretons, one of whom founded an hospital near the utmost boundary of this parish just by Bawtree, with a chapel to it, yet standing, where the Moretons were interred.

It was at length sold to Sir William Sanderfon.

EVERTON,

NEAR the river Idle to the east of Bawtree, belongs for the most part, to the corporation of Newark.

HEADON

ON the south-east side of Redford, belonged anciently to the family of the same name; and passed in the reign of Edward the Third by the female line to the Jorces, Chaworths; and lastly to the Wasteneys, who have enjoyed it since 1622, and have a fine seat here, begun by the present Baronet's ancestor Sir Hardolph, in 1711.

DARLETON

DARLETON

ON the north-east side of Tuxford, having been anciently an appurtenance of the royal manor of Dunham, was, by King Edward the First, farmed to the inhabitants. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Sampson Meverel was Lord of it.

HERE is, or was lately in use, a free chapel.

GAMSTON

ON the Idle, to the north-west of Tuxford, belonged in the last century to the Markhams, afterwards to the Earl of Clare, and since to the Duke of Newcastle.

HAWTON

NEAR Sherwood Forest, is also called HALLOUGHTON or HALMISTON. It makes an intire prebend in Southwell, which lies on the north side of it, and is called the Lay Prebend, because it has nothing spiritual, but the tithes of its own land.

LAXTON, or LEXINGTON,

ON the south side of Tuxford, not far from the Idle, was made a Barony by King John, and gives the title of Baron to the family of Sutton. It belonged formerly to the family of Everingham, from which it went by marriage to Sir John Etton, and from his son by marriage of John Roos, from one of whose family it was purchased by Sir Bryan Broughton, Baronet.

LANGFORD

ON the north side of Newark, formerly belonged to the Pierpoints, till sold to Sir Frederick Leek, who afterwards sold it to George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury. There is a moor here which did belong to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, but was granted by King Edward the Sixth to Sir Edward Finnes, afterwards Lord Clinton and Say, Henry Herefon and their heirs; and was not very long ago purchased by Doctor More, and by him left to his nephew, Sir Edward More, a Baronet of Nova Scotia.

KELHAM

KELHAM

ON the west side of Newark, the estate of Lord Lexington, who owns the whole island of excellent ground, between the two currents of the Trent on the westernmost of which this village stands. Here were divers parcels of land formerly given to religious houses. This estate is now the property of Lord George Sutton, who inherited it from Lord Lexington.

AVERHAM

ON the west side of the Trent, between Southwell and Newark, was, soon after the Conquest, the estate of the Tysons, from whose family, by the marriage of a daughter, it passed to that of the Hofets. From their heirs it passed to Robert Sauvage, who granted it to Robert de Lexington, in the reign of Henry the Third, from whom by marriage of a sister it came to the Suttons, since created Lords Lexington; but now it is the seat of the Duke of Rutland.

The Trent divides at a place in this parish called Upper Wear, and rejoins at another called Crankleys, in the parish of South Muskham.

CODDINGTON,

NEAR Newark, of note for the large moor near it, on which there used to be annual horse-races for a plate given by the mayor and aldermen of Newark; and here was formerly a chantry.

BALDERTON,

NEAR Newark, in the London road, was the estate of the Bully's, a family that came over with William the Conqueror, but in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the heirs carried it by marriage to the Meers's of Lincolnshire, who sold it to Giles Foster, whose heir sold it to James Leek, and his heir sold it to Mr. Lascelles of Eilston.

The cure of this parish and that of Faringdon, is served by one Vicar, and the tithes of both belong to the prebendary of Balderton.

KILVINGTON,

NEAR Nossington, formerly belonged to the Staunton's, till sold by Hervey Staunton, Esquire, to Mr. Cartwright.

UPTON

IN the parish of Headon, anciently belonged to the King's great manor of Dunham, and had a cottage belonging to the free-chapel here, which after the dissolution of monasteries was granted by Queen Elizabeth to John Mershe and Francis Greenham, and their heirs.

BEVERCOTES

NEAR West Markham, to the vicarage of which it has been joined ever since the fall of its church about ninety years ago. It was formerly the manor of a family of its name till the reign of Edward the Sixth, when it came by marriage to the Molineux family, after which it was sold to the Earl of Clare, ancestor of the present Duke of Newcastle.

EGMANTON

ON the south side of Tuxford, belonged formerly to the Mowbrays, then to the Everinghams, from whom it came to the Norwoods.

It afterwards became the manor of Popham, by the marriage of the daughter of Sir Seb. Harvey, Alderman of London; and we find it some time in the possession of the Stanhopes ancestors to the Earls of Chesterfield.

EGMANTON-HALL was purchased and built by Nicholas Powtrel, Serjeant at Law, who gave it to his cousin Markham; by whose heir it was sold to Francis Williamson; from whose family it has since come to the family of the Dukes of Kingston.

OSSINGTON

NEAR Carleton upon Trent, belonged anciently to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem; but at the dissolution of monasteries, was given by K. Henry the Eighth to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who conveyed it to Richard Andrews, and his heirs, by whom it was passed to Edmund Cartwright, whose posterity did lately, if they do not still, enjoy it.

GROVE

ON the south-east side of Retford, belonged some time ago to the Nevilles, and is now the seat of Anthony Eyre, Esquire.

LITTLE GRINGLEY,

SITUATED to the east of Redford, is in the parish of Clarebrough, and belongs, in part, to the royal manor of Dunham, and part to the Archbishop of York.

MORTON

IN the parish of Fiskerton, is on the south side of Southwell near the Trent.

THE manor belonged in the reign of Edward the Third to the families of Cressover and Annesley, and afterwards to the priory of Thurgarton; but at the dissolution of monasteries, Queen Elizabeth granted it to Thomas Cooper, Esq. and his heirs; one of whom, Sir Roger, sold it to Doctor Huntington Plumtree.

THE manor house was called Ashwell-Hall, from the Ashwells, who, having married the heiress of the Annesleys dwelt in it.

BABWORTH

NEAR Retford. The Saundby family were antiently Lords of the manor, from which it passed through the Swillingtons to that of Grendon, whose heirs sold it to Sir William Tresselt; Sir Robert his descendant, sold it to Sir Richard Willoughby of Wollaton. It is now the property of ——— Simson Esq. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Richard Wortley is supposed to have been Lord of it, and not long ago, it was purchased by Sir Gervase Elwis.

RANSKILL

IN the parish of Blithe, where the Hercies and Darcies had an estate formerly.

MATTERSEY

HAS a good stone bridge over the Idle near Bawtree, and had formerly a priory to which the manor belonged, when it had also a market and fair; but at the dissolution of monasteries it was given to John Nevil, Esq. whose heirs carried it by marriage to Sir William Hickman, Baronet, whose descendant the late Sir Willoughby, had a good seat here.

THIS village within a few years past, has been greatly improved.

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THORP,

A HAMLET of Mattersey, to whose priory it once belonged, but at the dissolution of Monasteries Henry the Eighth gave the manor to Anthony Nevil. In the same reign Sir Thomas Markham had a good estate here.

HARWELL

NEAR Bawtree, belonged formerly to the Markhams, Townleys, and Wentworths; from which last, it was passed to the corporation of Newark, of whom Thomas Magnus bought it, and gave it to Anthony Gilby, a Lieutenant-Colonel in Newark Garrison, whose posterity are or were lately tenants of it.



F I N I S.

